

FWP COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: January 13, 2010

Agenda Item: Four-Year Waiting Period for Some Either Sex Elk Permits

Division: Wildlife

Action Needed: Approval of Proposed Rule

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 20 minutes

◆-----◆

Background: A four-year waiting period for specific "either sex" elk permits has recently seen several variations proposed. As described here, the permits would include limited entry antlered/brow-tined/either sex elk permits with drawing odds of 10 percent or less based on first choice resident and nonresident applicants from the previous year's application/drawing results. If an applicant receives any either sex elk permit that had a drawing success rate of 10 percent or less the previous year, that hunter must wait four years before applying for any either sex elk permit with a 10 percent or less drawing success rate based upon the previous year's drawing results. For instance, any applicant receiving one of these elk permits in 2011 would not be eligible to apply for any other such elk permit with a drawing success rate of 10 percent or less until 2016. The list of permits with drawing odds of 10 percent or less would be updated annually based upon the previous year's drawing results. Based upon 2010 drawing statistics, 23 districts currently exhibit drawing odds of 10% or less for these types of elk permits. Currently available antlered/brow-tined/either sex elk permits that fall into this category are: 282-20, 283-20, 310-20, 339-20, 380-20, 401-20, 410-20, 426-20, 441-20, 447-20, 455-20, 500-20, 502-20, 520-20, 575-20, 620-20, 621-20, 622-20, 631-20, 632-20, 690-20, 690-21, 799-20.

This waiting period would apply to the person, not the land. A landowner who qualifies for landowner preference would not be exempted from the four-year waiting period. The land, however, would remain eligible for use in a landowner preference application every year of the wait period for the landowner's designee who has not drawn one of these permits in any of the previous four years. Additionally for each or any year of the waiting period, a qualifying landowner may potentially secure an either sex elk permit valid only on his/her deeded land via a hunting access contract as defined by "HB 454 access agreements". This option—already available for implementation—requires FWP Commission approval and compliance with other statutory elements to allocate a permit to a landowner in exchange for agreed-to public elk hunting access.

Public Involvement Process & Results: In addition to public comment at the Jan. 13 Commission meeting, public comment on any adoption would run from Jan. 13 thru 5 p.m. Monday, Jan. 24, 2011. Any final adoption by the FWP Commission would be on Feb. 10, 2011. The FWP Commission asked staff to engage landowners in order to understand how that community might view this wait period. Results of that informal effort will be presented at the January meeting. Limited comments received to date (to include hunters) vary.

Alternatives and Analysis: Proposals may be adopted as proposed, with adjustment, additions, deletions or no change from 2010 (status quo) as per staff justifications, public comment and/or Commission discussion.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale: The most definitive result of this action is to eliminate the possibility for any one individual to draw the same long-odds type of permit more than once in any four years. While this proposal would not significantly increase drawing odds in most districts, based upon 2010 drawing statistics four of the 23 districts would exhibit improved odds to slightly greater than 10 percent (11 - 17%) after four years of restricted entry. Based upon 2010 quota numbers, the number of hunters "waiting" will grow to approximately 3,700 after four years before individuals drawn the first year will be eligible to apply again. It is unknown what application and/or hunting efforts (and any associated impact) any "waiting" hunters will engage for the subsequent four years after drawing one of these permits. Possibilities include making no permit applications to applying for other permits not now on this proposed list.

Proposed Motion: I move the Commission adopt the proposed four-year waiting period for some elk permits as presented by FWP. (If the Commission does not move on this item, the current status quo of no wait period for these elk permits will remain in place.)